

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00

XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

NSC-05 SS-15 STR-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01 PM-03 DODE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 NIC-01 BIB-01 /104 W

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R 061649Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1661

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 727

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PO

SUBJ: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS APPROVES UNITARY LABOR LAW

REF: (A) LISBON 378 (B) LISBON 380

SUMMARY: COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS FINALLY APPROVED EDITED VERSION OF DECREE WHICH WILL PROMOTE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE LABOR CONFEDERATION IN PORTUGAL. END SUMMARY.

1. COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FORMALLY APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 3 RE-WORKED VERSION OF DECREE-LAW WHICH HAS EFFECT OF ESTABLISHING UNITARY LABOR CONFEDERATION IN PORTUGAL. APPROVAL WAS LARGELY PRO-FORMA AGREEMENT ON FINAL LANGUAGE OF DECREE, AS GUT ISSUES
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DECIDED EARLIER. (REF A). MEASURE NOW GOES TO COUNCIL OF STATE

FOR REVIEW AND TO PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES FOR PROMULGATION.

2. MINISTER OF LABOR'S CHIEF OF CABINET TOLD LABATT FEB. 4 THAT COMPROMISE REACHED ON FINAL VERSION PRECLUDES ANY PORTUGUESE LABOR UNION, FEDERATION, OR CONFEDERATION FROM AFFILIATING WITH INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATIONS OR TRADE SECRETARIATS. MINISTRY OF LABOR RECOGNIZES THIS WILL WEAKEN LABOR MOVEMENT, BUT ACCEPTS THIS AS INTERIM MEASURE IN VIEW OF CRITICISM OF PREVIOUS DRAFT PROVISION IN WHICH ONLY NATIONAL CONFEDERATION WAS PERMITTED TO AFFILIATE WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. PRESENT VERSION OF LAW STILL PERMITS PORTUGUESE LABOR GROUPS AT ANY ORGANIZATIONAL LEVEL TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS AND RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFEDERATIONS AND SECRETARIATS.

3. TEXT OF DECREE, AS MODIFIED BY COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, NOT YET AVAILABLE. FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES HAS TOLD AMBASSADOR (REF B) THAT SUBSTANTIAL CHANGES WERE INCORPORATED IN DRAFT DECREE DURING DEBATE IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND THAT AS RESULT SOCIALISTS ABLE TO WORK WITHIN THE UNIONS DESPITE COMMUNIST CONTROL OF SUPERSTRUCTURE.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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